

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02159 151623Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05 SS-15 /044 W

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R 151529Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2494

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2159

USIA FOR IWE/GAWRONSKI

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SOPN, PO

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY

1. THE INFORMATION MINISTRY ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 12 HAVING PROPOSED TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS A PLAN FOR REORGANIZATION OF ANI, THE GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY, TO EXPAND FUNCTIONS AND GIVE NEW IMAGE AND STRUCTURE TO ANI, WHICH WILL BE RENAMED "PORTUGAL PRESS." THE LISBON PRESS EXPECTS "PORTUGAL PRESS" TO BE MODELED AFTER AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE. MINISTRY WILL CREATE DEPARTMENTS WITHIN NEWS AGENCY FOR NEWS DISSEMINATION, INFORMATION RESEARCH, AND PUBLIC OPINION STUDIES.

2. JAIME SARAIVA, INFORMATION MINISTRY'S NEWS DEPARTMENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR FOR THE FOREIGN PRESS, TOLD EMBOFFS APRIL 13 THAT HE FEARS THAT CREATION OF "PORTUGAL PRESS" WILL LEAD TO A MONOLITHIC GOP VOICE AND COULD LEAD TO A PRESS WITH ONLY ONE MORNING AND ONE AFTERNOON DAILY.

3. COMMENT: SARAIVA FEARS MAY BE OVERSTATED DUE TO HIS PERSONAL UNHAPPINESS AS A MODERATE IN AN INCREASINGLY LEFTIST-RUN INFORMATION MINISTRY. NONETHELESS, PORTUGAL, WITH NO TRADITION OF A FREE, PROFESSIONAL, AND RESPONSIBLE PRESS, IS LED BY THIN-SKINNED MILITARY OFFICERS, HARDLY ANY OF WHOM HAVE LIVED IN A SOCIETY WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE.

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THIS BACKGROUND TENDS TO LEAD THEM TO BELIEVE THAT A HIGH

DEGREE OF PRESS RESTRAINT IS A MORE OR LESS NORMAL AND
DESIRABLE STATE OF AFFAIRS.
CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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